

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
NORTHERN DIVISION

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PLAINTIFF

VS. CIVIL NO. 3:16CV00622CWR-FKB

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI DEFENDANTS

TRIAL TRANSCRIPT  
VOLUME 11

BEFORE THE HONORABLE CARLTON W. REEVES  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
AFTERNOON SESSION  
JUNE 12, 2019  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

REPORTED BY: CHERIE GALLASPY BOND  
Registered Merit Reporter  
Mississippi CSR #1012

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1 THE COURT: All right. Are we ready for the  
2 cross-examination of Dr. Baldwin?

3 MR. SHELSON: Yes, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Dr. Baldwin, you may return to the stand.

5 MR. SHELSON: May I proceed, Your Honor?

6 THE COURT: You may.

7 CROSS-EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. SHELSON:

9 Q Good afternoon, Doctor. Did you testify this morning that  
10 some people that you interviewed in Mississippi thought they  
11 were committed to a state hospital against their will?

12 A I don't believe I testified that they said it was against  
13 their will. It was more that I said people that I interviewed  
14 wanted to leave.

15 Q Aren't, be that as it may, all civil commitments to a  
16 hospital involuntary material?

17 A I believe they are.

18 Q So in that sense, all civil commitments to any state  
19 hospital are against the individual's will. Is that correct?

20 A It would mean, yes, they don't have a choice. Some may be  
21 more against it than others.

22 Q When did you last have an active inpatient case load?

23 A So patients who are in a hospital at the time?

24 Q Yes.

25 A That's a very long time ago.

1 Q Approximately how long ago?

2 A That was at the beginning of my career. So that would be  
3 in 1972.

4 Q When did you last have an active outpatient case load?

5 A I had that in -- I had an outpatient case load in between  
6 2010 and 2013. I also had one while I was at the VA from 2009  
7 to 2015.

8 Q So your last active outpatient case load was sometime in  
9 2015?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q Okay. You talked a good bit this morning about the  
12 Massachusetts mental health system. Do you recall that?

13 A I do.

14 Q Did your career start out in New York?

15 A It did.

16 Q And then at some point, did you move to Massachusetts?

17 A I did.

18 Q And when did that occur?

19 A When did I move to Massachusetts?

20 Q Yes, ma'am.

21 A 1976.

22 Q And has your -- have you been in Massachusetts ever since?

23 A Yes, I have.

24 Q Does every adult with SMI in Massachusetts who needs mobile  
25 crisis get that service?

1 A I don't know. I don't know that information. As you say  
2 every adult, so I don't know. Do you mean now?

3 Q Yes.

4 A I don't know.

5 Q Does every adult with SMI in Massachusetts who needs case  
6 management get that service now?

7 A I don't know.

8 Q Do you know what percentage of the adults with SMI in  
9 Massachusetts who need case management currently get that  
10 service?

11 A No, I don't.

12 Q Do you know what percentage of adults with SMI in  
13 Massachusetts get the standard of discharge planning that you  
14 testified about this morning?

15 A Do you mean presently or --

16 Q Presently.

17 A No, I do not know.

18 MS. VAN EREM: Objection, Your Honor. Dr. Baldwin has  
19 testified that her employment with the State of Massachusetts  
20 ended in 2009, and she's repeatedly told Mr. Shelson that she  
21 does not know the answer to the current questions regarding the  
22 state of Massachusetts.

23 THE COURT: Objection overruled.

24 BY MR. SHELSON:

25 Q That's a nice segue of where I was going next, Dr. Baldwin.

1 So let's talk about what period of time that you were able to  
2 testify about the Massachusetts mental health system. You said  
3 you started working in Massachusetts in 1976?

4 A Nineteen -- I moved there in '76, and I went to school, but  
5 I didn't start with the Department of Mental Health work that I  
6 testified about this morning until 1978.

7 Q Is 1978 when Massachusetts started introducing  
8 community-based services?

9 A I don't know if it was exactly that year, but it was about  
10 that same that it was starting to take hold, and there were, as  
11 I said this morning, in variance regions, task groups or groups  
12 of staff that were tasked with bringing people out of the state  
13 hospital.

14 Q As we sit here today, is Massachusetts still working on  
15 expanding its community-based services to meet the needs of  
16 adults with SMI in that state?

17 A I don't know.

18 Q What period of time -- is there any period of time you know  
19 the answer to that question up to?

20 A Can you repeat the question?

21 Q Did you testify this morning that you're familiar with the  
22 Massachusetts mental health system up to 2009?

23 A What I was familiar with up until 2009 is the work I was  
24 doing in the agency, the community-based agency that I worked  
25 in. So it was primarily focused on the northeast of

1 Massachusetts.

2 Q In 2009, were community-based services still being expanded  
3 in northeast Massachusetts?

4 A Always. It was a continuous process of fine-tuning  
5 services, building new services, improving on old ones.

6 Q To your knowledge, are there any unmet mental health needs  
7 for adults with SMI in Massachusetts now?

8 A I don't know.

9 Q Were there any unmet needs for adults with SMI in northeast  
10 Massachusetts in 2009?

11 A Yes, I would say so.

12 Q You testified this morning that community-based services  
13 reduced the risk of hospitalization?

14 A Did I testify this morning that community-based services  
15 can reduce risk of hospitalization?

16 Q Yes.

17 A Yes, I did.

18 Q Do you remember this slide from this morning, this PDX-18?

19 A Yes, I do.

20 Q This is a summary of your findings in Mississippi. Is that  
21 correct?

22 A Yes, it is.

23 Q And you found, based on the individuals you reviewed in  
24 Mississippi, that 100 percent of them would have avoided or  
25 spent less time in a hospital if they had received sufficient



1 community-based services?

2 A Would have avoided or spent less time in a state hospital  
3 if they had received the services, yes.

4 Q This is Exhibit D-320, which was previously admitted into  
5 evidence.

6 THE COURT: Okay.

7 BY MR. SHELSON:

8 Q Did you find that 19 of the 30 individuals you reviewed in  
9 Mississippi need PACT services?

10 A I would like to refer to my --

11 Q Sure.

12 A -- report, if that's all right.

13 Q Sure.

14 A The number of PACT services, that was related to the tally  
15 that you and I did at the deposition. I don't believe I have  
16 it counted in my report.

17 Q I'll represent to you this is the number we agreed on, and  
18 it's been stipulated to by the parties.

19 A Okay. All right.

20 Q So 19 of 30, again, I'll represent to you that that's  
21 63 percent of the individuals you reviewed in Mississippi you  
22 recommended PACT services for?

23 A Yes.

24 Q In connection with the review that the DOJ experts did in  
25 Mississippi of the 154 individuals, did DOJ's expert, Robert

1 Drake, circulate a paper on how effective community-based  
2 services are at reducing hospitalization?

3 A He did. It was before we got started. It was a review of  
4 the literature.

5 Q This is Exhibit D-235. Do you recognize this as the paper  
6 that we just discussed that circulated by Dr. Drake?

7 A I do.

8 Q All right. And you see here that based on Dr. Drake's  
9 review of the literature, he found that assertive community  
10 treatment was 41 percent effective in reducing  
11 hospitalizations. Is that correct?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And to avoid hospitalization altogether, 100 percent of the  
14 time, obviously, if you -- strike that. If you are going to  
15 avoid hospitalization 100 percent of the time if you receive  
16 sufficient community-based services, those services are going  
17 to have to be 100-percent effective at reducing  
18 hospitalization. Is that correct?

19 A So that's a hypothetical question?

20 Q Yes.

21 A If you want to eliminate hospitalization altogether, the  
22 approach that you are using has to be 100-percent effective.

23 Q Yes.

24 A In a hypothetical situation, I would agree. But there's a  
25 list of services, and so sometimes it involves a combination.

1 And I think to have 100 percent of anything is very difficult,  
2 if not impossible.

3 Q Did Dr. Drake's paper find that there's a lack of data on  
4 the combined effectiveness of community-based services on  
5 reducing hospitalizations?

6 A Yes, he did. The exact recipe is still -- the studies are  
7 not conclusive.

8 Q Another service you mentioned this morning about being  
9 effective at reducing hospitalization was case management. Is  
10 that correct?

11 A That's correct.

12 Q Did Dr. Drake's paper find that there's a lack of data on  
13 the effectiveness of case management at reducing  
14 hospitalizations?

15 A Yes.

16 Q This is page 2 of Exhibit D-235. If I may direct your  
17 attention to the highlighted part, highlight sentence. It  
18 reads -- I'm sorry. This is talking about case management.  
19 And anyway, it goes on to say, "Intervention also reduces  
20 length of hospitalizations, no RR." Do you know what "no RR"  
21 means?

22 A I don't.

23 Q Okay. One more thing before I leave Dr. Drake's paper.  
24 What Dr. Drake, in his paper, calls hospital diversion  
25 services, are those -- and they're listed here in number one --

1 are those crisis services?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And what did -- how effective, based on Dr. Drake's review  
4 of the literature, are diversion services at reducing  
5 hospitalizations?

6 A 50 percent.

7 Q For the individuals that you interviewed in Mississippi,  
8 did your interviews last approximately one hour each?

9 A Yes.

10 Q I want to talk about person 90 briefly. Was person 90 one  
11 of the individuals you discussed this morning?

12 A Yes, she is.

13 Q And is person 90 the individual who you testified was  
14 evicted from her apartment for not paying rent?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Okay. And I believe your testimony was that what could  
17 have been done to prevent her hospitalization while that was  
18 going is for, I think you said, a case manager to talk to  
19 person 90, her daughter and her landlord?

20 A To work with her proactively to have an ongoing  
21 relationship, an outreach proactive relationship, yes.

22 Q Right. And that outreach, did you testify that that  
23 included speaking with person 90, as well as her daughter and  
24 her landlord?

25 A Yes.

1 Q And you agree with me that whatever case manager is doing,  
2 that takes some amount of time?

3 A Absolutely.

4 Q And how much of the case manager time that's going to take  
5 on a case-by-case basis will depend on how far the case manager  
6 has to travel to meet with and speak with those individuals?

7 A That is one factor, yes.

8 Q And there are a host of other factors. Correct?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And do you agree that the number of individuals case  
11 managers can deal with at any given time is a finite number?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Sticking with person 90, I want to go back to PDX18 in the  
14 left-most column. "Would have avoided or spent less time in  
15 the hospital." You agree those are two different things?

16 A I agree.

17 Q Okay. Did you arrive at a conclusion in your report  
18 regarding whether person 90 would have avoided hospitalization  
19 altogether or whether she would have went to the state hospital  
20 but spent less time there?

21 A I don't believe I separated it out in my report.

22 Q Did you separate it out in your report for any of the  
23 individuals you reviewed in your report?

24 A No, because it was mixed. Some might have spent less time,  
25 some might have avoided, or it might have been earlier

1 hospitalizations that they would have avoided or spent -- there  
2 was too many moving parts. And because it was a two-pronged  
3 question, I answered it together.

4 Q But correct me if I'm wrong, but I understood your  
5 testimony this morning to be that you believed person 90 would  
6 have spent less time in the state hospital?

7 A Yes. That's true for her.

8 Q Is it quantified or otherwise stated in your report how  
9 much less time person 90 would have spent in a state hospital?

10 A No, not quantified.

11 Q Is it quantified for any of the individuals in your report?

12 A No.

13 Q Doctor, what is -- well, we've heard this -- I hate to  
14 belabor the record, but I want to make sure we're on the same  
15 page. What is your understanding of what scatter site housing  
16 is?

17 A I don't know what it is.

18 Q What is your understanding of permanent supported housing?

19 A Do you mean in general?

20 Q Yes, ma'am.

21 A In general, to me, meaning not specific to a state,  
22 permanent supported housing is housing that an individual has  
23 that they are not -- it's not time limited, or they are not at  
24 risk of being moved out of it, that they would receive support  
25 with that housing. They might receive a rent subsidy.

1 Q If we could turn to your report, please, which is PX-403  
2 and page 27, please. This is person 91.

3 A Yes.

4 Q Have you had -- have you had a chance to look at it  
5 sufficiently to know who I'm talking about?

6 A I know who you're talking about.

7 Q Okay. Thank you. Did you recommend for person 91 three to  
8 four-bed house staffed with people who could work with double  
9 amputees?

10 A I believe I did, but I can find it in my report to be sure.  
11 But that is what I believe I did, yes.

12 Q Okay. Is that type of housing permanent supported housing?

13 A I would view it as a step down, like that this individual  
14 having -- and we did discuss him previously -- having been in a  
15 nursing home, he has unique needs in that he is a double  
16 amputee. So he might need a -- a place to step down from into  
17 permanent supported housing, which is why I described that  
18 situation first.

19 Q So this could be -- this housing that you recommended could  
20 be an initial step, and if he did well, then perhaps some day  
21 he could go to permanent supported housing?

22 A Yes.

23 Q But in any event, the three to four-bed house you  
24 recommended, do you know how many staff members would be  
25 required to operate that facility?

1 A I don't. It would -- when I say staffed, that means  
2 someone who's living in and who's there 24 hours a day. So it  
3 would require at least three people.

4 Q Do you know how much it costs to operate such homes?

5 A I do not.

6 Q Doctor, could we turn to person 105, who's on page 141 of  
7 your report.

8 A I have it.

9 Q And everything in this next series of questions I'm going  
10 to ask you I think you'll find in the first paragraph of your  
11 report on 141. But in any event, did you interview person 105  
12 on April 17, 2018?

13 A I did.

14 Q At the time, did she have a two-bedroom apartment in  
15 Gulfport?

16 A She did.

17 Q Did you find that apartment was very neat and very clean  
18 but sparsely furnished?

19 A I did.

20 Q And when you arrived, was person 105 cooking her own meal?

21 A She was.

22 Q At the time you interviewed her, was person 105 oriented in  
23 all spheres?

24 A She was.

25 Q And what does that mean?



1 A It means that she was oriented when it's in all spheres.  
2 And spheres, it's to person, place, time, other, you know,  
3 environment, everything.

4 Q Would you turn to page 147 of your report, please. And  
5 here you're still discussing person 105. Is that correct?

6 A Yes, I am.

7 Q All right. Aid like to refer your attention to the last  
8 paragraph on page 147. And specific -- well, and there's a  
9 sentence that begins with "specifically," do you see that?

10 A Yes.

11 Q You're welcome to follow either on the screen or in your  
12 report. But in any event, where I've got the word  
13 "specifically" highlighted, is that where -- strike that.  
14 Where the word "specifically" is highlighted, is that where you  
15 begin to identify the services that you believe person 105  
16 needs to remain in the community?

17 A Yes. And before that, I say, "would have avoided or spent  
18 less time if these were available to her."

19 Q Okay. And so do you agree with me that that list of  
20 services continues over onto page 148 and takes up that whole  
21 page?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And do you agree with me that the list of services you  
24 identified concludes on page 149 of your report at the end of  
25 the bullet point at the top of the page?

1 A I do.

2 Q Do you believe -- based on your review of person 105, did  
3 you find at the time you interviewed her that she had created a  
4 stable life for herself in the community?

5 A She had.

6 Q And did you find that person 105 is at serious risk of  
7 institutionalization?

8 A I did.

9 Q And I think this is on page 144 of your report, if you need  
10 to verify it, but what was person 105's last discharge date  
11 from a state hospital before you interviewed her?

12 A 5/2/2016.

13 Q Which was just short of two years before you interviewed  
14 her?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Could we turn, Doctor, please, to person 111. And that  
17 person starts on page 170 of your report.

18 A I have it.

19 Q So you know who this person is and are ready to talk about  
20 person 111?

21 A I do.

22 Q Okay. Thank you. All right. Does person 111 have a  
23 history of forensic involvement?

24 A He does.

25 Q And at least briefly, what is that history?

1 A He has a history -- I mean, I can find it exactly -- but of  
2 assault charges, use of a weapon with the assault charges.

3 Q Given his history of forensic involvement, does person  
4 111's discharge from East Mississippi State Hospital need to be  
5 approved by the discharge advisory committee?

6 A That was my understanding, and that's why I put it in the  
7 report, because he has unresolved forensic issues.

8 Q I'm sorry. Did you finish?

9 A Issues.

10 Q Thank you. Do you have any issues with patients with a  
11 forensic history having to go through a discharge advisory  
12 committee or similar process to be discharged from a state  
13 hospital?

14 A Do I have any issues with it, meaning would I disagree with  
15 that or I --

16 Q Yes.

17 A No, I don't disagree with that.

18 Q And so you made a housing recommendation for person 111,  
19 and that obviously assumes that at some point, he would be  
20 discharged. Is that correct?

21 A Yes. And I also assumed that he would have to -- also, his  
22 forensic issues would have to be resolved at some point as  
23 well.

24 Q Yes, ma'am. In your opinion, if person 111 is discharged,  
25 does he need to be discharged to a setting that is staffed 24

1 hours a day?

2 A I did make that recommendation for at least in the  
3 beginning for him.

4 Q And you made that recommendation because given his forensic  
5 history, person 111 is not someone you can just put into an  
6 apartment by himself?

7 A Correct. He also has a very likely traumatic brain injury,  
8 so there's some neurological involvement as well, which is  
9 another reason, in addition to his serious mental illness.

10 Q The setting you identified for person 111 that is staffed  
11 24 hours a day, would that be a locked facility?

12 A I didn't put that in, I don't believe so, no.

13 Q Would person 111 need to be escorted when he left the  
14 facility at least for a period of time?

15 A It would depend on his clinical presentation and what his  
16 more recent behaviors had been. It would be an individual  
17 assessment.

18 Q Do you know how much it would cost to operate and staff  
19 such a facility?

20 A I don't.

21 Q I want to direct your attention, Doctor, next to person 117  
22 in Exhibit PX-1109, which is a document you testified about  
23 earlier today. Do you recall this document?

24 A I do.

25 Q Okay. And this was -- this document was discussed in the

1 context of some of your testimony regarding discharge planning?

2 A Correct.

3 Q Okay. And --

4 A And crisis. It was also in the testimony regarding crisis.

5 Q My first question about this document is this. And it's  
6 right here. The date of discharge for person 117 was  
7 September 8, 2017?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And his follow-up at Pine Belt Mental Health was scheduled  
10 for four days later, on September 12th, 2017?

11 A Correct.

12 Q Is there something that -- well, let me ask -- strike that.  
13 What do you think the hospital should have done, if anything,  
14 in those four days between the date of discharge and the first  
15 appointment?

16 A So just so I understand your question, you're asking what  
17 the hospital's responsibility was during those four days?

18 Q In your opinion.

19 A In my opinion, and I had testified this morning that what  
20 the hospital should have done would have taken place before  
21 that, starting on August 16th. So everything would have been  
22 in place by the 8th.

23 Q In your experience, if a person who is discharged from a  
24 state hospital has an appointment with the mental health center  
25 within four days of his discharge, is that time lapse

1     satisfactory?

2     A     Are you saying as it's -- as it is here, to send a person  
3     home and say, You're coming back in four days?

4     Q     No, what I'm saying is, in your experience -- and I'm  
5     talking in general here. In your experience, in general, when  
6     individuals are discharged from the state hospital, they're --  
7     they often have appointments with the local community mental  
8     health center?

9     A     I did see that in the record, not all the time, but they  
10    were given appointments, yes.

11    Q     And all I'm asking you is, in general, do you think a delay  
12    of four days from discharge to the appointment in the community  
13    mental health center is an unreasonable delay?

14    A     With this individual, I think it was risky because he had  
15    two suicide attempts in the past, one very -- very, very  
16    serious, and he also is a substance use disordered person who  
17    was at risk of relapse. So a lot can happen in four days.  
18    That was my concern. When left just to you and your family  
19    being the only ones to take responsibility for the followup.

20    Q     So in your opinion, is there any period of delay that is  
21    acceptable between discharge from the state hospital and  
22    appointment at the community mental health center?

23    A     Can you repeat that question again, please? I'm sorry.

24    Q     I'll try.

25    A     Okay.

1 Q In your opinion, is there any period of delay that is  
2 acceptable between the date of discharge from a state hospital  
3 and the individual's first appointment at a community mental  
4 health center?

5 A Absolutely. It depends on what's been put in place ahead  
6 of time. You can have a delay of a week or two weeks or even  
7 longer, depending on what support services have been put in  
8 place before the person left the hospital. It depends on the  
9 individual and what their risks are, as I mentioned with this  
10 individual, but also what supports have been put in place ahead  
11 of time.

12 Q Based on your review of the records, do you know whether  
13 person 117 kept this appointment?

14 A Can you put that up again so can I see the date?

15 Q I'm sorry.

16 A I believe he did keep that appointment.

17 Q Do you know what happened during that appointment?

18 A Exactly or --

19 Q What information, if any, do you have of what happened  
20 during that appointment?

21 A I'd have to consult my report on that to see. He did, in  
22 fact, keep the appointment. He said it was mandatory. He told  
23 me in the interview that he had to pay for the visit, \$25, and  
24 he was connected with services at that time, an intake  
25 assessment was done, and he was connected with services at Pine

1 Belt.

2 Q I want to move on to another topic, Doctor. In your  
3 report, did you recommend for a number of the individuals you  
4 reviewed that a close relationship be established with a  
5 dentist?

6 A I did.

7 Q And I counted that you made that recommendation for 17 of  
8 the individuals you reviewed. Is that consistent with your  
9 recollection?

10 A That would make sense to me, yes.

11 Q Are you aware of any state mental health system that  
12 provides dental care for individuals?

13 A I am not. I'm aware of connections being made. I'm also  
14 aware of there are dentists in communities who will provide  
15 reduced rates or free services for individuals. And my  
16 personal experience has been that mental health centers or case  
17 managers, or even within the VA it was done, to connect  
18 individuals with those dentists.

19 Q Have you -- let me stick with that for a minute. In those  
20 cases that you just talked about, where someone is connected  
21 with dental services, do you agree there's got to be a  
22 mechanism to pay for those services?

23 A Unless it's a dentist who's giving it for free, but yes.

24 Q Okay.

25 A It's a service that has to be paid for.



1 Q In your experience, what other ways you have seen those  
2 type of services paid for?

3 A Sometimes people have dental insurance. As I had  
4 indicated, a dentist will give reduced rates. There are also  
5 dental schools that will offer services, cleanings and X-rays  
6 and other services for -- because students are doing it or  
7 dental residents are providing the service.

8 Q Where have you seen such dental schools?

9 A I've seen that in Massachusetts.

10 Q Where in Massachusetts?

11 A It's the Tufts Dental School downtown in Boston.

12 Q Have you been retained by the U.S. Department of Justice,  
13 who I will just refer to as DOJ, in any other -- in any cases  
14 or matters other than this Mississippi matter?

15 A I have.

16 Q All right. Do you know whether the Mississippi State  
17 Hospital provides dental services?

18 A Am I aware if the state hospital provides it?

19 Q Specifically, the Mississippi State Hospital.

20 A What I saw in the records, and it was that there was a  
21 consult, an assessment for dental needs, and that the patients  
22 were given the choice to either go or to refuse. But often  
23 patients had serious multiple dental caries or were missing a  
24 lot of teeth, which can cause a lot of health problems. And  
25 primarily what I saw in the record was extractions. So people

1 ended up with less teeth, but at least they didn't have the  
2 caries.

3 Q You're not offering an opinion that the extractions were  
4 unnecessary, are you?

5 A No.

6 Q All right. And this is all on page 7 of your report, what  
7 I'm about to ask you next. And you're certainly welcome to  
8 refer to page 7 of your report. I'm going to refer your  
9 attention to this second paragraph here. Does it, in summary,  
10 say that in late 2014, you worked directly with DOJ on a matter  
11 in a southern state?

12 A I did.

13 Q Did you interview 106 individuals in that southern state?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And that southern state referred to in that paragraph is  
16 not Mississippi?

17 A It is not Mississippi.

18 Q Okay. So for the 106 individuals you reviewed in that  
19 southern state, did you perform a similar analysis to the  
20 analysis you performed in Mississippi?

21 A It was similar. It was not exactly the same.

22 Q Did you find that all 106 individuals you reviewed in that  
23 southern state could live in the community with reasonable  
24 community-based services?

25 A I don't recall. I don't recall if it was 100 percent.

1 Q And then you also did work for DOJ in a northwestern state.  
2 Is that correct?

3 A I did.

4 Q And did you likewise do work for DOJ in a midwestern state?

5 A I did.

6 Q I want to ask you next about -- and this is still on page 7  
7 of your report. Top paragraph at the top of the page. Do you  
8 see the reference to *Amanda D. versus Hassan*?

9 A I do.

10 Q And was that a lawsuit in the state of New Hampshire?

11 A It was.

12 Q What was your involvement in that case?

13 A I was placed at a extended care facility in the northern  
14 part of the state, and I interviewed patients. I also  
15 interviewed their guardians and reviewed their records.

16 Q Is the facility you just referenced the Glencliff Nursing  
17 Home?

18 A It is.

19 Q To your knowledge, was a -- did New Hampshire enter into a  
20 consent degree in that case?

21 A I don't know what the proper terminology is for it, but I  
22 know that New Hampshire is working now on improving their  
23 mental health services, their community-based services, but I  
24 don't know the legal term for it.

25 Q So as far as you know, as we sit here today, this matter is

1 still ongoing?

2 A What do you mean done and gone?

3 Q Pardon?

4 A You said considered this matter what?

5 Q Ongoing?

6 A Ongoing. Okay.

7 Q Sorry.

8 A Sorry. I didn't hear you.

9 Q My fault.

10 A My understanding is that they're in the phase, that the  
11 state is in the phase of developing services, community-based  
12 services.

13 Q And your involvement in that matter started back in 2012?

14 A It did.

15 Q All right. And still, in reference to your involvement in  
16 the *Amanda D.* case, in that case were you asked to review what  
17 services would be appropriate to maintain the individuals in  
18 the community?

19 A I was.

20 Q Is the methodology you used in New Hampshire similar to the  
21 methodology that you used in Mississippi in this case?

22 A Somewhat similar, yes. Not exactly.

23 Q Did you interview 22 individuals who were at Glencliff at  
24 the time?

25 A Well, I don't have my report with me, and it was in 2012,

1 but that number sounds approximately right.

2 MR. SHELSON: Your Honor, may I approach?

3 THE COURT: Yes, you may.

4 BY MR. SHELSON:

5 Q Doctor, I've just handed you what's been marked as Exhibit  
6 D-289. What is Exhibit D-289?

7 A It's the affidavit of Judith Boardman in support of  
8 plaintiff's motion for class certification.

9 Q And Judith Boardman, was that your name at the time of this  
10 affidavit?

11 A It was. It's not spelled correctly here, but yes, that was  
12 my name.

13 Q Is this your affidavit?

14 A May I look at it a minute? Can you repeat the question  
15 now?

16 Q Is Exhibit D-289 your affidavit in the New Hampshire matter  
17 we're discussing?

18 A Yes, it is.

19 Q And if you would turn to the last page of exhibit -- excuse  
20 me, second to the last page, page 9 of Exhibit D-289. Is that  
21 your electronic signature on that page?

22 A Yes, it is.

23 Q And does it say the date is January 19, 2013?

24 A Correct.

25 Q All right. If I could direct your attention, please, to

1 page 6, paragraph 19. It's at the bottom of the page. Does  
2 this talk about the sample that was reviewed?

3 A Yes, it is.

4 Q Okay. If I turn the page, does that indicate to you that  
5 you reviewed 22 participants?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay. And the part I've highlighted, did you find that 22  
8 of the 22 review participants, or 100 percent of persons  
9 reviewed, very likely would have avoided admission to Glencliff  
10 if they had access to the services sought in this case along  
11 with other existing services?

12 A I did write that, yes. That's my finding.

13 MR. SHELSON: Your Honor, we move to admit  
14 Exhibit D-289 into evidence.

15 THE COURT: Any objection?

16 MS. VAN EREM: Yes, Your Honor. We object on the  
17 basis of relevance. This document is about Dr. Baldwin's  
18 findings in New Hampshire, which is not relevant to this case.

19 THE COURT: Any response, Mr. Shelson?

20 MR. SHELSON: Yes, Your Honor. First of all, she  
21 introduced this case in her report and talks about this case to  
22 some degree in her report, and then in questioning a few  
23 minutes ago, she said that her methodology in the New Hampshire  
24 case is similar to the methodology she used here in Mississippi  
25 in this case. So we submit that this document is relevant.

1 THE COURT: Is this the *Amanda D.* case that's  
2 mentioned in her report?

3 MR. SHELSON: Yes, sir.

4 THE COURT: Is this -- I see in her report it's the  
5 *Amanda D. versus Hassan*. Is this the same case?

6 MR. SHELSON: There's -- there's --

7 THE COURT: Because this affidavit says *Lynn E. versus*  
8 *Lynch*. That's all I'm asking.

9 MR. SHELSON: Well, as I understand it, there's *Lynch*  
10 and *Amanda D.*, and they're related cases.

11 THE COURT: Are they related cases, or are they the  
12 same case? That's the only question that I have. Maybe  
13 Ms. Boardman can -- well, the United States was involved and --  
14 are these the same -- I'm just trying to figure out. The  
15 expert report that's in evidence in this case from Dr. --

16 MR. SHELSON: Baldwin.

17 THE COURT: -- Baldwin mentions an *Amanda D. versus*  
18 *Hassan* case out of New Hampshire. The affidavit that she's  
19 been presented with today is an affidavit that was filed in  
20 *Lynn E. versus Lynch*, and the United States being an intervenor  
21 against the State of New Hampshire. Are those the same two  
22 cases is my question?

23 MS. VAN EREM: Yes, Your Honor. They are the same  
24 case.

25 THE COURT: Okay.

1 MS. VAN EREM: Your Honor, if I may, I maintain that  
2 this is irrelevant because there's no facts in this case that  
3 is more likely to be established with the introduction of this  
4 document.

5 THE COURT: It's hearsay. That's one thing it is. I  
6 know that.

7 MR. SHELSON: Well, with that point, Your Honor, they  
8 can correct me if I'm wrong, but the United States objected to  
9 a number of the State's exhibits. One of the United States'  
10 objections to the exhibits that they objected to in many  
11 instances included hearsay. And my understanding is that the  
12 United States has withdrawn its hearsay objections to the  
13 State's exhibits.

14 MS. VAN EREM: That's correct. We maintain our  
15 objection on relevance and Federal Rule of Evidence 403.

16 MR. SHELSON: Your Honor, on the point about  
17 relevance, if I may, we think it is relevant that where the two  
18 instances that we have data that Dr. Baldwin has used the  
19 methodology she used in Mississippi, she's found that  
20 100 percent of the people in Mississippi and 100 percent of the  
21 people she reviewed at Glencliff in New Hampshire very likely  
22 would have avoided admission if they had received sufficient  
23 community-based services.

24 THE COURT: I'm going to overrule the objection.

25 I presume it just goes to the point that in this case,



1 as well as the other case, 100 percent of the people she  
2 reviewed, she came to the same conclusion basically.

3 MR. SHELSON: Yes, Your Honor. May I?

4 THE COURT: You may proceed.

5 MR. SHELSON: Thank you, Your Honor.

6 BY MR. SHELSON:

7 Q Going back, Dr. Baldwin, to your finding that 100 percent  
8 of the people you reviewed in Mississippi would have avoided or  
9 spent less time in the state hospital, what is your scientific  
10 basis for that conclusion?

11 A And what do you mean by scientific exactly?

12 Q Well, I'm trying to remember back to this morning. You  
13 were tendered as an expert in the field of what? Do you  
14 recall?

15 A Psychiatric nursing.

16 Q Is there scientific basis for that conclusion in the field  
17 of psychiatry or psychiatric nursing?

18 A I guess I'm still not understanding scientific. If you --  
19 what I based that on was more my understanding of what  
20 community-based services work for people that are very -- that  
21 I've seen work for people who are very similar to the people  
22 who were in my sample. And I've them avoid hospital or spend  
23 much less time in hospital when those services are being  
24 provided to them effectively.

25 Q The rates at what you -- that -- strike that. The rates at

1 which you have seen community-based services help people avoid  
2 hospitalizations, are those rates in line with the rates  
3 reflected in Dr. Drake's paper that we looked at earlier that's  
4 Exhibit D-235?

5 A I can't say the percent of rates. I know that the services  
6 that are listed here on the ones I've talked about are  
7 effective, but I can't quote rates. He has done a review of  
8 the literature and looked at a series of articles, not all, I'm  
9 sure, and has put together a summary. It was used as a guide.

10 Q Do you have any different rates based on the literature  
11 that you can offer the court?

12 A No.

13 Q In your opinion, can everyone benefit from community-based  
14 services?

15 A When you say everyone, I mean, I would like to say in  
16 general or most everyone. I don't want to say everyone who has  
17 serious mental illness can always benefit. I'm reluctant to do  
18 that.

19 Q I'm going to refer you, Doctor, to page 147 and page 148 of  
20 your deposition. This highlighted part, I asked you, "Are  
21 there instances where an individual would not benefit from  
22 integrated community-based services?" And your answer was, "Of  
23 the sample or in general?" I said, "In general." And what was  
24 your answer?

25 A I said, "In my opinion, no. I think everyone can benefit."

1 Q You were not asked in this case to determine whether  
2 Mississippi is offering reasonable community-based services,  
3 were you?

4 A I was asked -- my task was to answer the questions that I  
5 had testified to this morning. So not to -- what did you say?  
6 Make a determination on whether the State is --

7 Q Offering reasonable community-based services.

8 A I was not asked to do that, no.

9 Q To your knowledge, does any state have a clinical review  
10 team review a random sample of individuals discharged from a  
11 state hospital to determine what community-based services it  
12 needs to offer on that basis?

13 A To my knowledge, is any state doing that now? Is that what  
14 you're asking?

15 Q Yes.

16 A No, I have no knowledge of that.

17 Q To your knowledge, has any state ever done that?

18 A So ask the question again. Has any state ever --

19 Q Had a clinical review team review a random sample of  
20 individuals discharged from state hospitals and determined what  
21 community-based services it needs to offer on that basis?

22 A That the state commissioned to do that, you're saying?

23 Q Yes.

24 A No, not to my knowledge.

25 MR. SHELSON: Can I have a moment to confer, Your

1 Honor?

2 THE COURT: Yes, you may.

3 BY MR. SHELSON:

4 Q Doctor, did you make any determination regarding how many  
5 PACT teams Mississippi should have?

6 A No, I didn't.

7 Q Did you make any determination regarding what quantity of  
8 any community-based service Mississippi should have?

9 A No.

10 Q Did you make any determinations regarding what locations  
11 Mississippi should offer its community-based services in?

12 A Do you mean geographic locations?

13 Q Yes.

14 A No, I did not.

15 Q Do you have an opinion regarding whether the  
16 community-based services that Mississippi does offer are  
17 reasonable in light of what other states offer?

18 A I do not.

19 MR. SHELSON: Your Honor, that's all the questions we  
20 have. Thank you, Dr. Baldwin.

21 THE COURT: All right.

22 MS. VAN EREM: The United States has no further  
23 questions.

24 THE COURT: Dr. Baldwin, I have no questions either.  
25 You may step down. Is this witness finally excused?

1 MS. VAN EREM: Yes, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: All right. You may step down and go about  
3 the rest of your duties, whatever they are. Thank you.

4 Before the government calls its next witness, we're  
5 going to -- the next witness is an expert?

6 MS. VAN EREM: That's correct.

7 THE COURT: Okay. We're going to take a 15-minute  
8 break, and we'll figure out how far -- how long we'll go with  
9 that person. We'll be able to tell you when we get back.

10 (Recess)

11 THE COURT: Good to have you back, Mr. Holkins.

12 MR. HOLKINS: Good to be back, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: All right. I mentioned the possibility of  
14 those posttrial proposed findings of fact, and I haven't seen  
15 Ms. Fox since. Maybe she's doing them now. I'm sorry. We  
16 have to do things to stay -- you know. Are we ready to call  
17 the next witness?

18 MR. HOLKINS: Yes, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: All right. You may proceed.

20 MR. HOLKINS: Your Honor, United States calls  
21 Katherine Burson as its next witness.

22 THE COURT: Ms. Burson, I'm not sure if you've been in  
23 the courtroom when I've given instructions, so if you will,  
24 speak into the microphone, and speak at a pace at which the  
25 court reporter can keep up with you.

1           Try to allow the lawyers to complete their questions  
2 or their statements before you speak so that the two of you  
3 will not be speaking at the same time. We are now unplugged,  
4 apparently. We're good? Okay.

5           Make sure all of your responses are verbal. If you're  
6 going to nod or shake your head, say yes or no, and we'll try  
7 to traffic that in case -- that that doesn't happen. And try  
8 to avoid using uh-huh and unh-unh. Also, if you will state and  
9 spell your name for the record.

10           THE WITNESS: My first name is Katherine,  
11 K-A-T-H-E-R-I-N-E. And my last name is Burson, B as in boy,  
12 U-R-S-O-N.

13           THE COURT: Thank you. Counsel, you should not feel  
14 rushed today. It's likely that this will be our last witness,  
15 obviously, and we may only get through her direct today, if  
16 it's anything like some of the other -- I mean, I don't know.  
17 Is this witness available tomorrow?

18           MR. HOLKINS: Yes, Your Honor.

19           THE COURT: Is she? Are you, Ms. Burson?

20           THE WITNESS: Yes, I am.

21           THE COURT: Okay. All right. We may hear the rest of  
22 the story tomorrow. All right. You may proceed, Mr. Holkins.

23           MR. HOLKINS: Thank you, Your Honor.

24                           KATHERINE BURSON,  
25           having first been duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HOLKINS:

Q Good afternoon, Ms. Burson.

A Good afternoon.

Q What do you do for a living?

A I'm an occupational therapist.

Q Were you retained by the United States to consult on this case?

A Yes, I was.

Q What did your work on this case entail?

A I was asked to interview a number of individuals that were receiving services in Mississippi, mental health services, and to make a determination, after reviewing their medical records and other information that I gathered, as to whether or not I thought that they could have avoided or spent less time in the hospital.

Q For how many individuals did you make that determination?

A I did that for 28 individuals.

Q Did you submit an expert report in this case?

A I did.

MR. HOLKINS: Your Honor, Ms. Burson's expert report was previously admitted as PX-406. A copy of her report is in the binder provided to the court and opposing counsel.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

BY MR. HOLKINS:

1 Q Ms. Burson, does your report state the findings and  
2 conclusions you made based on your review of those 28  
3 individuals?

4 A Yes, it does.

5 Q We'll discuss your report in detail, but first I have some  
6 questions about you. What does an occupational therapist do?

7 A An occupational therapist, the domain of occupational  
8 therapy practice is all the everyday occupation things that we  
9 do that occupy our time. So all the things that we need to do  
10 and we want to do. And an occupational therapist is educated  
11 to assess and analyze all of the factors that influence a  
12 person's ability to do what they need and want to be able to  
13 do.

14 Q And what are some of those factors that influence a  
15 person's ability to do what she needs or wants to do?

16 A Okay. So they can be factors that have to do with a  
17 specific individual, how their body works, how their brain  
18 works, what kinds of illnesses and conditions they have, their  
19 personality, what their interests are, what their strengths  
20 are, what their challenges are, so those are person level  
21 things. It also has to do with the task demands people have to  
22 do. So properties of the tasks or the roles, the things that  
23 people have to do, we analyze those.

24 The environment, the context within which they have to do  
25 those things, we are taught to analyze that, and then we look



1 at the interaction amongst those things. And all of those are  
2 points of potential intervention to help somebody be able to do  
3 what it is they want or they need to be able to do to function  
4 better.

5 Q Do occupational therapists prescribe medication?

6 A No, they do not.

7 Q Do occupational therapists assess the effects of medication  
8 on a person's functionality?

9 A Medications would be amongst the factors that we would  
10 consider in that analysis of things. So, for example, if  
11 someone is particularly groggy, and I look and what medications  
12 they are on could contribute to that grogginess, then I would  
13 have a conversation with the psychiatrist or the nurse  
14 practitioner about that, and we would, you know, make some  
15 determination with the individual about the degree to which  
16 that might be impacting the function.

17 Q What licenses and certification do you maintain?

18 A I have a -- an Illinois license to practice occupational  
19 therapy. I also have a national board -- board certified  
20 occupational therapist nationally. And then I also have a  
21 national certification for certified recovery -- certified  
22 rehabilitation -- certified psychiatric rehabilitation  
23 practitioner. Thank you. I was going over the acronym in my  
24 head.

25 Q What is the certified psychiatric rehabilitation

1 practitioner?

2 A That's a cross-professional, cross-discipline certification  
3 that focuses on implementation of practices that promote hope  
4 and empowerment and the kinds of things that help someone take  
5 more charge over their lives and move forward.

6 Q How long have you been working in a mental health field as  
7 an occupational therapist?

8 A Since 1980 was my first clinical practicum in mental  
9 health, and then I've practiced since then.

10 Q How would you describe the overarching focus of your career  
11 in the mental health field?

12 A My career has always ended up, for whatever reasons,  
13 focusing on what was needed to help people be able to live more  
14 successfully in the community. Much of that career, I did  
15 practice in hospital settings, but the focus of that was on  
16 helping people be able to function better outside of the  
17 hospital.

18 Q You have a master's degree in occupational therapy. Is  
19 that right?

20 A Yes, I do.

21 Q Where did you obtain that degree?

22 A I went to Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

23 Q Organizing them into broad categories, how would you  
24 describe the kinds of jobs you've had since completing your  
25 occupational therapy training?

1 A So I've had a number of jobs providing direct care where I  
2 carried a full patient case load and did the assessment on  
3 people and provided treatment and participated in treatment  
4 planning meetings and in team collaboration.

5 And then I've also had jobs where I provided -- I provided  
6 direct care, but I also supervised other clinicians who  
7 provided direct service. And then I've also had jobs that have  
8 been in the hospital and have been in the community. I've  
9 worked in the full continuum of care.

10 Q Let's talk a bit about your direct clinical care work.  
11 Could you briefly describe the roles you've had providing  
12 clinical services to adults with serious mental illness in  
13 hospital settings?

14 A Yeah. One of the roles is assessment, particularly  
15 assessment of somebody's ability to function and to be able to  
16 look at how their ability to function influences those patterns  
17 and behaviors that seem to drive hospitalization and -- so that  
18 those can be factored in to the discharge planning and to the  
19 community supports that are provided.

20 Another role that I've had has been to look at how to  
21 engage somebody who doesn't seem to be making a connection to  
22 treatment or is too sick at the time to connect verbally.

23 Q You have worked in a state hospital before?

24 A Yes, I have.

25 Q Which one?

1 A Chicago Read Mental Health Center.

2 Q After you have left Chicago Read Mental Health Center, did  
3 you continue to work for the State of Illinois?

4 A Yes, I did.

5 Q What other jobs have you had for the State of Illinois?

6 A So while I was working at Chicago Read Mental Health  
7 Center, I had led efforts to better coordinate the care  
8 between -- the rehabilitation care between the hospital and all  
9 of the community providers. So they asked me to then start to  
10 work for not only the state hospital but all of the network of  
11 community mental health agencies that were providing community  
12 services to people who were hospitalized there. So I took the  
13 lead role for rehabilitation then there.

14 And then after that, they asked me to do that for the  
15 Greater Chicago area, which was then three hospitals and about  
16 80 to 90 community mental health agencies. And then they asked  
17 me to take the lead for that statewide. So that was eight  
18 hospitals and about 180 community mental health agencies.

19 Q For a period of time, did you serve as statewide director  
20 of rehabilitative services for the state of Illinois?

21 A Yes, I did, for somewhere between 10 and 12 years.

22 Q And what were your duties in that role?

23 A One of the things that I did is I brought to Illinois  
24 evidence-based supported employment, to drive that in the  
25 community system. I eventually became the lead person for

1 driving evidence-based practices in the state, and I also had  
2 oversight of rehabilitation within the state hospitals and the  
3 larger community system.

4 Q Ms. Burson, do you still work for the State of Illinois?

5 A No, I do not.

6 Q When did your employment for the State of Illinois end?

7 A In March of 2017.

8 Q Have you had any involvement in administering Illinois'  
9 mental health service system since then?

10 A No, I have not.

11 MR. HOLKINS: Your Honor, we offer Katherine Burson as  
12 an expert in psychiatric occupational therapy, serious mental  
13 illness, and community-based mental health assessments.

14 THE COURT: Any objection from the State?

15 MR. SHELSON: Sorry. Can I have those three again?

16 MR. HOLKINS: Psychiatric occupational therapy,  
17 serious mental illness, and community-based mental health  
18 assessments.

19 MR. SHELSON: No objection, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: All right.

21 MR. HOLKINS: Your Honor, may I have a moment.

22 THE COURT: Yes.

23 (Short Pause)

24 MR. HOLKINS: May I approach the witness.

25 THE COURT: Hold on one second. You may. You may

1 approach the witness. The witness will be allowed to testify  
2 as an expert in psychiatric occupational therapy, serious  
3 mental illness and community-based mental health assessments.

4 MR. HOLKINS: Thank you, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: You may proceed.

6 BY MR. HOLKINS:

7 Q Ms. Burson, I'd like to ask you some general questions  
8 about the review you conducted in this case. You stated  
9 earlier that your review involved making clinical assessments  
10 of 28 individuals who received services in one or more of  
11 Mississippi State Hospitals. Is that correct?

12 A Yes.

13 Q What were you assessing for those 28 individuals?

14 A I was asked to assess whether or not they could have  
15 avoided or spent less time in a state hospital. I was asked to  
16 assess, if they were out of the state hospital, whether they  
17 were at serious risk for rehospitalization. I was asked to  
18 assess whether or not they would oppose community-based  
19 services. And I was asked whether or not they were appropriate  
20 for community services, and if so, which services did I think  
21 would be most appropriate to address their needs.

22 Q Ms. Burson, please turn to page 4 of your report, which is  
23 at the tab labeled 0406. Is this where you explain how you  
24 approached those four questions?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Ms. Burson, do you have a demonstrative that summarizes  
2 your findings with respect to the 28 individuals you reviewed?

3 A Yes, I do.

4 MR. HOLKINS: May I approach, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Yes, you may.

6 MR. HOLKINS: Your Honor, this first slide is PDX-19  
7 for identification only.

8 THE COURT: All right.

9 BY MR. HOLKINS:

10 Q Ms. Burson, does this slide accurately reflect your  
11 findings?

12 A Yes, it does.

13 Q Let's go through them one by one. On the question of  
14 whether the individuals in your review could have avoided or  
15 spent less time in a state hospital, what did you find?

16 A I found that 100 percent of them could have avoided or  
17 spent less time in a state hospital.

18 Q On the question of whether the individuals in your review  
19 opposed receiving community-based services, what did you find?

20 A I found that 100 percent of them would not oppose  
21 community-based services.

22 Q On the question of whether the individuals you reviewed  
23 were at serious risk of hospitalization, what did you find?

24 A I found that of the people that were out of the hospital at  
25 the time that I interviewed them, that 88 percent of them were

1 at serious risk of rehospitalization.

2 Q On the question of whether the individuals in your review  
3 were appropriate for and would benefit from community-based  
4 services, what did you find?

5 A I found that 100 percent of them would be appropriate for  
6 and benefit from community-based services.

7 Q What data informed your review of the 28 individuals in  
8 your report?

9 A I interviewed all 28 individuals. I also reviewed all of  
10 the medical records that were made available to me, which  
11 included the medical records from the state hospital, as well  
12 as, in many cases, community mental health records. I reviewed  
13 the Mississippi operations manual, their service definitions  
14 for mental health services in the community and what was  
15 entailed with those, and reviewed some information on the  
16 housing program. And then I also reviewed -- Dr. Robert Drake  
17 had pulled together a summary of research of practices that had  
18 been shown in the research to reduce hospitalization, and I  
19 reviewed that document as well.

20 Q Ms. Burson, did you also interview any family members or  
21 community mental health providers in connection with this  
22 review?

23 A Yes, I did. Whenever I was able to, I interviewed quite a  
24 number of family members, and I also interviewed community  
25 mental health agency staff about individual clients.



1 Q How did you go about locating the 25 individuals you  
2 interviewed who were not in a state hospital at the time?

3 A So I came to Mississippi, and persons from the Department  
4 of Justice had identified information of where people might be  
5 located and tried to reach out to them, and we drove around in  
6 cars trying to find them. We knocked on doors. Sometimes we  
7 had appointments. Sometimes they weren't able to reach  
8 someone, so we would go to the most recent address that we had.  
9 But we went around looking. And so I was in four different  
10 areas in the state.

11 Q Were you able to find all of the individuals you were  
12 looking for?

13 A No, we did not find all of the individuals that we were  
14 looking for.

15 BY MR. HOLKINS: Did you interview some of the 28 individuals  
16 in your review jointly with another member of the clinical  
17 review team?

18 A Yes. The first time I came into Mississippi, we did a  
19 number of interviews where we had two people on the clinical  
20 review team in the same interview. One person took the lead,  
21 and one person was a secondary interviewer. And we did that so  
22 that we could see whether or not we would have drawn the same  
23 conclusions.

24 Q Ms. Burson, I'm going to be referring to the 28 individuals  
25 you reviewed by numbers instead of by their names. Do you

1 understand?

2 A Yes, I do.

3 Q I've given you Exhibit 400, which is a list of all 154  
4 people in the clinical review, along with the number. Do you  
5 have that?

6 A I don't see it. Where would it -- do you know where it  
7 would --

8 THE COURT: It's your second tab probably in that  
9 notebook.

10 THE WITNESS: Thank you. I do have it.

11 THE COURT: Okay.

12 MR. HOLKINS: Thank you, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: All right.

14 BY MR. HOLKINS:

15 Q Ms. Burson, let's return to the four questions you answered  
16 for the 28 individuals in your review. The first of those four  
17 questions asked whether the individual could have avoided or  
18 spent less time in the state hospital. Is that right?

19 A Yes.

20 Q As a practical matter, what did you mean when you found  
21 that individuals could have avoided the state hospital?

22 A What I was looking at was if there -- if they had had  
23 services provided that have been shown to mitigate the risk of  
24 hospitalization, were those services sufficient to help  
25 mitigate that risk. And then I also looked at if there was

1 evidence in the medical record that they had been in the  
2 hospital longer than they -- than the medical record said they  
3 had stabilized.

4 Q How does your finding that some individuals could have  
5 avoided hospitalization compare to a finding that those  
6 individuals never needed inpatient treatment?

7 A I don't see those as the same determinations. So for me --  
8 when I look at something, someone could need hospitalization at  
9 the point in time that their symptoms have already escalated to  
10 the point that they need to get hospital-based treatment to  
11 get -- to right the ship. So -- but I looked in those cases as  
12 to what the community services were that they had prior to that  
13 hospitalization and leading up to that, and whether those  
14 services, based on their normal or their typical pattern of  
15 what happens before they get hospitalized, whether the services  
16 that they were prescribed and receiving were sufficient to  
17 mitigate the risk.

18 Q In some instances, did you find that the services being  
19 received were not sufficient to prevent hospitalization?

20 A Yes.

21 Q What kinds of community-based treatment did you find the  
22 individuals you reviewed needed to avoid hospitalization but  
23 did not receive?

24 A I found the PACT, Program of Assertive Community Treatment,  
25 was not their supportive employment, permanent supportive

1 housing, community support services, mobile crisis supports,  
2 more intensive transition services out of the hospital.

3 Q Could you briefly describe what PACT is?

4 A Uh-huh. Yes. PACT is a team-based approach to  
5 providing --

6 MR. SHELSON: Objection, Your Honor. This is just  
7 repetitive at this point. I think we all know what PACT is at  
8 this point in the trial.

9 THE COURT: All right. We can -- I'm fully versed in  
10 what PACT is. So --

11 MR. HOLKINS: Okay.

12 THE COURT: All right.

13 MR. HOLKINS: Thank you, Your Honor.

14 BY MR. HOLKINS:

15 Q Ms. Burson, could you give an example of one in your review  
16 who needed PACT but didn't receive it?

17 A Person 133.

18 Q How would you describe person 133?

19 A He's an African-American male in his mid 30s. He lives in  
20 a trailer on his sister's property. He has kind of bounced  
21 around, living with his mother sometimes, sometimes with his  
22 sister on the property. He has a remote work history, used to  
23 work at a chicken plant. He's done some car detailing, but he  
24 hasn't worked in quite some time. He has very little structure  
25 to his day and has been in the hospital a lot.

1 Q Could you please turn to page 76 of your report, which is  
2 406. Is this where you discuss person 133?

3 A Yes, it is.

4 Q Where did you interview this individual?

5 A I interviewed him at Mississippi State Hospital. He was  
6 actually hospitalized at the time of the interview.

7 Q At the time you submitted your report, how many times had  
8 this individual been admitted to state hospitals in  
9 Mississippi?

10 A He had been admitted there 16 times.

11 Q Ms. Burson, do you have a demonstrative showing how much  
12 time person 133 spent in a state hospital over a one-year  
13 period in 2017 and 2018?

14 A Yes, I do.

15 MR. HOLKINS: Your Honor, this is PDX-20 for  
16 identification only.

17 THE COURT: PDX-20?

18 MR. HOLKINS: Yes, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: All right.

20 BY MR. HOLKINS:

21 Q Ms. Burson, what time period does this demonstrative cover?

22 A May of 2017 through April of 2018.

23 Q How many state hospital admissions did person 133 have  
24 during that one-year period?

25 A Four.

1 Q How were those hospitalizations identified on this  
2 demonstrative?

3 A Each hospitalization is denoted by a different color that  
4 is blocked in on the calendars.

5 Q In the first four months of 2018 alone, how many times was  
6 person 133 in a state hospital?

7 A Three.

8 Q And during those four months, did person 133 spend more  
9 time in a state hospital or not? Over those four months, did  
10 person 133 spend more time in a state hospital or not in a  
11 state hospital?

12 A He spent more time in the state hospital than outside of  
13 the state hospital.

14 Q Did this man's state hospital admissions between May 2017  
15 and August -- excuse me, April 2018, follow a pattern, or was  
16 each one different?

17 A They followed a pattern.

18 Q Do you have a slide that shows the pattern you observed?

19 A Yes.

20 MR. HOLKINS: Your Honor, this is PDX-21 for  
21 identification only.

22 THE COURT: All right.

23 BY MR. HOLKINS:

24 Q What is the title of this demonstrative, Ms. Burson?

25 A Person 133, "Cycle of State Hospitalization Admissions."

1 Q How many steps are there in that cycle?

2 A Four.

3 Q Let's walk through them. What's the first step in person  
4 133's cycle of state hospital admissions?

5 A So in the first phase, he is living in the community  
6 without adequate community mental health services.

7 Q What does community living look like for person 133?

8 A So he's living in a trailer on his sister's property that's  
9 in pretty bad shape. He is -- has no structure to his day. He  
10 doesn't really have any steady kinds of responsibilities of  
11 what he needs to do. He typically doesn't take his medications  
12 consistently, uses substances, can -- when he's using  
13 substances can get irritable and moody and disruptive and  
14 difficult to be around.

15 Q What happens next in the cycle?

16 A Eventually, he tends to go off of his medications  
17 completely, uses more substances. He's more disruptive. He  
18 escalates. His family finds him so disruptive and out of  
19 control that they push for hospitalization.

20 Q Did you see any evidence that person 133 received crisis  
21 services in that stage?

22 A No, I did not.

23 Q And what happens in step 3?

24 A So in step 3, he gets admitted to the state hospital. And  
25 when he's at the state hospital, he tends to stabilize pretty

1 quickly on medications. He's engaged in the groups and the  
2 various therapies that are offered there, and he is prepared  
3 for discharge.

4 Q And finally, what's step 4 in this cycle of state hospital  
5 admissions for person 133?

6 A So in step 4, then he is discharged from the state hospital  
7 with ineffective discharge planning.

8 Q In what ways is the discharge planning that person 133 has  
9 received in the state hospital ineffective?

10 A The discharge plan doesn't provide a way to address the  
11 factors that keep driving the repeated hospitalization. So I  
12 would expect with discharge planning, when a plan hasn't worked  
13 and someone keeps getting hospitalized, that they would be  
14 looking for an alternative plan that would address the factors  
15 that keep driving the hospitalization.

16 So what happens then is he goes out there, he doesn't get  
17 those kinds of services, and the cycle repeats itself.

18 Q Why did you recommend PACT for person 133?

19 A He meets the criteria for PACT. He's sort of a classic  
20 referral for that. He's had repeated hospitalizations. He has  
21 a comorbid substance use condition that goes along with that.  
22 He can get very disruptive and sometimes end up getting into  
23 legal involvement around -- for things like disturbing the  
24 peace. And PACT has the capacity to intervene in all kinds of  
25 ways that would help break up that cycle.



1 Q Have you seen individuals like person 133 who are able to  
2 avoid hospitalization once connected to PACT?

3 A Yes.

4 Q At the time of your review, had person 133 ever received  
5 Program of Assertive Community Treatment?

6 A No, he had not.

7 Q Why not?

8 A It was not available in the area where he lived, but I  
9 don't think it was ever -- it was -- there was no evidence that  
10 it was ever considered or that they tried to put together a  
11 more intensive sort of even PACT-like sort of thing.

12 Q In stepping back from person 133, how many people of the 28  
13 in your review were receiving PACT at the time?

14 A One.

15 Q Who is that person?

16 A Person 142.

17 Q How would you describe person 142?

18 A So he's an African-American male in his mid to late 50s.  
19 He lives in his own home, which he's had for quite some time  
20 now, something in the vicinity of 12 years. He was in college  
21 at one point in time to become an electrical engineer. He  
22 didn't end up completing that education, but he did end up  
23 going, despite a long history of illness, completing some  
24 certificates in related fields at the community college. So he  
25 has some certificates around to repairing different kinds of

1 electrical equipment. And he has a couple of those in TV  
2 repair and radio repair and those kinds of things. His house  
3 is filled with various kinds of equipment that he would like to  
4 get back to repairing some day.

5 Q Could you please turn to page 124 of your report? Is this  
6 where you describe person 142?

7 A Yes, it is.

8 Q At the time you interviewed him, how many times had person  
9 142 been admitted to a state hospital in Mississippi?

10 A He has had ten hospitalizations at Mississippi State  
11 Hospital. He's also had several other psychiatric admissions,  
12 but ten at the state hospital.

13 Q In general, what have been the factors contributing to  
14 these man's repeated state hospital admissions?

15 A He has -- he often also goes off of his medications. He  
16 stops taking them. He has a comorbid medical condition. He  
17 has diabetes that he has alongside of that and often has  
18 difficulty managing that diabetes, and there's an interaction,  
19 and then that can spiral things. He -- when he goes off his  
20 medications, he gets manic-like. He's been known to go out and  
21 buy cars. He's gotten into bankruptcy issues. He's -- he gets  
22 in trouble for disturbing the peace.

23 Q When did person 142 start receiving PACT?

24 A In 2015.

25 Q What services does person 142 receive through PACT?

1 A He has people regularly coming out to his home to help him.  
2 He gets support around medications, in making sure and working  
3 with him around taking medications. He gets support around  
4 following his diet and managing his diabetes.

5 He also is involved with peer support, and he -- they also  
6 pick him up and take him to a center where he can take, you  
7 know, wellness classes and does some fitness kinds of things.

8 Q What do you -- first off, how many times has person 142  
9 been admitted to state hospitals in Mississippi since 2015,  
10 when he connected to PACT?

11 A He was admitted once since 2015. But prior to that, in the  
12 few years from 2011 until 2015, he was hospitalized a total of  
13 17 times. There were four of those that were at Mississippi  
14 State Hospital, I believe.

15 Q What do you make of the fact that person 142 went back into  
16 the state hospital even after he started receiving PACT?

17 A I think that that is not uncommon. When somebody's had so  
18 many hospitalizations, sometimes it takes awhile before they  
19 never get hospitalized. Still, in that particular  
20 hospitalization, he went his longest period of time since 2011  
21 without being hospitalized, and it was his shortest  
22 hospitalization.

23 And additionally, there was some significant stressors that  
24 contributed to the hospitalization. So he had previously a  
25 brother who was killed in an auto accident and that he was

1 very -- he's very, very close and connected with his family.

2 And prior to that 2017 hospitalization, the one since he was on  
3 PACT, his other brother was diagnosed with cancer. So there  
4 were some things going on.

5 Q Let's turn back to person 133 for a second. How would you  
6 compare person 133's history of hospitalization with that of  
7 person 142, whom we just discussed?

8 A I think their history of hospitalization is similar in that  
9 they both have a pattern of going off of their medications.  
10 They both have additional medical conditions, and one having  
11 the substance use issues, but the other one having the diabetes  
12 that's difficult to manage, and that has some interaction  
13 effects.

14 They both get disruptive and out of control and get into  
15 all kinds of trouble when they -- that escalates into requiring  
16 hospitalization.

17 Q What distinguishes them?

18 A Well, person -- one person got PACT, and one did not. And  
19 the cycle stopped when the one person got PACT, or certainly  
20 was significantly altered.

21 Q Ms. Burson, I'd like to shift to another finding from your  
22 review. You testified that many of the individuals you  
23 reviewed were at serious risk of further hospitalization at the  
24 time. Is that correct?

25 A Yes, I did.

1 Q How did you go about determining that these individuals  
2 were at serious risk of rehospitalization?

3 A I looked at -- after collecting all the information from  
4 the interviews that I did with the community mental health  
5 agencies and the family members and the individuals and  
6 reviewing all of their medical records, I looked for what were  
7 the patterns -- what was happening before people were  
8 hospitalized. I looked at what kinds of services they were  
9 getting, and I looked at whether or not the services that they  
10 were receiving at the time that I interviewed them, and based  
11 on how they were doing, were they receiving services that would  
12 help mitigate that risk.

13 Q In general, what's the extent of the community-based  
14 services that these at-risk individuals were receiving at the  
15 time of your interviews?

16 A I'm not sure I heard your question. Could you repeat it?  
17 I'm sorry.

18 Q In general, what was the extent of the community-based  
19 services that these at-risk individuals were receiving at the  
20 time of your interviews?

21 A In general, they were receiving very little services. For  
22 the most part, people were prescribed medication services.  
23 Some people were getting some very minimal community support,  
24 but most of the people were not getting that either. So the  
25 treatment was predominantly focused on medications with some

1 community support for some individuals.

2 Q What were the obstacles to receiving appropriate  
3 community-based services for these at-risk individuals?

4 A Well, in some cases, the services that would have been --  
5 that would have addressed the factors that were contributing to  
6 their hospitalizations were not available where they lived. In  
7 other cases, the services that they needed might have been  
8 available to them, but for whatever reason, those services were  
9 either not considered or not prescribed. The person wasn't  
10 receiving them.

11 And then in some cases, the person was receiving the  
12 service, but not with the intensity or the frequency that would  
13 mitigate the risk.

14 Q What are some examples of community-based services that  
15 were not available in some individuals' home counties?

16 A PACT and supported employment.

17 Q And what are examples of community-based services that were  
18 available to at-risk individuals which they never received?

19 A Permanent supportive housing.

20 Q Finally, what services did you find that these at-risk  
21 individuals were receiving, but not with the intensity  
22 necessary to prevent hospitalization?

23 A Community support services.

24 Q Ms. Burson, I'd like to drill down on one of the services  
25 you mentioned, supported employment, which you testified that

1 individuals at risk of hospitalization needed but weren't  
2 receiving. Correct?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Could you give an example of one such individual?

5 A Person 132.

6 Q Could you briefly describe person 132?

7 A Yeah. Person 132 is a 23-year-old very fair-complected  
8 Caucasian male. He's also quite overweight. He graduated high  
9 school. He grew up in and out of foster care. His mother has  
10 schizophrenia. He -- he lives with his mom and his -- he's got  
11 a four-year-old brother.

12 He did graduate high school, despite being sick and having  
13 mental health challenges from a young age, his teens. And he  
14 even started college. He really likes science, biology,  
15 especially anything having to do with the ocean, and he likes  
16 history, and especially anything having to do with the Civil  
17 War. But college was -- he got interrupted with -- he was  
18 getting sick so often, so he stopped going to college. And  
19 then he worked at McDonald's, and he's worked at Sonic, and  
20 he's done that, but that's kind of who he is.

21 Q Could you please turn to page 81 of your report. Is this  
22 where you discussed person 132?

23 A Yes, it is.

24 Q Where did you interview him?

25 A I interviewed him in the home that he lives in with his

1 mother, though he was the only one. You know, his family was  
2 not present at the time of the interview.

3 Q At the time of your interview, how many times had person  
4 132 been admitted to state hospitals in Mississippi?

5 A In Mississippi, he was in the state hospital three times.  
6 Prior to that, he had lived in Louisiana.

7 Q What community-based services did you recommend for person  
8 132?

9 A I recommended PACT and permanent supported housing, and I  
10 recommended that PACT also have an emphasis on supportive  
11 employment.

12 Q Why did you think person 132 was a good fit for supportive  
13 employment?

14 A He wants to work. He had worked for about a year at  
15 McDonald's, and then -- this was in Louisiana. And then he  
16 worked for another year at Sonic, and then he moved to  
17 Mississippi. And he worked at another Sonic for about six  
18 months, and then he lost his job. He was told when he was let  
19 go that he was making the other employees uncomfortable because  
20 he was scary.

21 And supported employment is an intervention designed to  
22 help with that, to keep people working. Since that time, he  
23 has not tried to work.

24 Q How would person 132 benefit from supported employment?

25 A So supported employment does all kinds of things for people



1 besides giving them a paycheck, which, of course, is good, but  
2 it also gives them a sense of their identity, and an identity  
3 other than being a patient or a person with a significant  
4 illness. It gives them structure to their day. It gets them  
5 up and out of bed to go where they need to be. Many people end  
6 up taking better care of their appearance. It gives them a way  
7 to interact with other people in the community and gets them  
8 rooted to their community. It keeps them more physically  
9 active.

10 For many people, it means that they build in -- it gives  
11 them a reason to take their medications. It gives them a  
12 reason -- you know, there's something to lose by being  
13 hospitalized. The list goes on and on and has many, many  
14 positive -- employment has many, many positive benefits for  
15 people. You see it both ways, but it's supported with an ED.

16 Q Returning to person 132, why did you find that he was at  
17 serious risk of rehospitalization?

18 A When I interviewed him, and at the time he was not  
19 receiving services that would mitigate his risk for  
20 hospitalization. Additionally, he -- he talked with me about  
21 how it was a time of year when he was typically hospitalized,  
22 kind of knows his pattern of when he gets hospitalized. And in  
23 talking with him, he had no sense of what he could do or a plan  
24 to help prevent that in any way.

25 Q How would the community-based services that you

1 recommended, including PACT and supported employment, help to  
2 mitigate the risk of hospitalization for person 132?

3 A So there's a few ways that he gets hospitalized. One  
4 thing, he has a history of going off of his medications, so  
5 PACT would help him, you know, ensure that he is getting his  
6 medications consistently.

7 He also doesn't have a sense that he can -- he doesn't have  
8 much of a sense of self-agency at all, that he can manage his  
9 illness, and PACT can get in there and work with him on what he  
10 can do to help do that. And PACT can do that in his natural  
11 living environment.

12 I mentioned before that he's actually quite obese, and he's  
13 got some health things related to that at a very young age of  
14 only 23. So a nurse and a team can also help give him some  
15 guidance around that and start to build greater independence in  
16 him. He's --

17 Q At the time that you interviewed him, had person 132 ever  
18 received PACT?

19 A No, he had not.

20 Q At the time you interviewed him, had person 132 ever  
21 received supported employment?

22 A No, he had not.

23 Q Ms. Burson, were any of the individuals in your review whom  
24 you recommended for supported employment actually receiving the  
25 service?

1 A No.

2 Q Ms. Burson, I'd like to shift gears and talk about  
3 permanent supported housing, which is the service you testified  
4 that at-risk individuals in your review didn't receive, even  
5 though it was available. Is that correct?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Could you give an example of one such individual?

8 A Person 125.

9 Q Could you briefly introduce person 125?

10 A He's a very tall African-American male in his mid 30s. He  
11 stood the whole time of the interview. He's got a restlessness  
12 and agitation about him. At the time of the interview, he was  
13 actually watching a young nephew and was able to keep his eye  
14 on his nephew to make sure he wasn't getting into something  
15 that would put him in danger, though he was still quite  
16 distractable with tangential speech and some other kinds of  
17 symptoms.

18 He used to work -- he actually dropped out of high school  
19 when he was 15 because his mother passed away, and he describes  
20 having dropped out for financial reasons to be able to help  
21 support the family.

22 He used to work as a commercial truck driver and as a  
23 commercial fisherman, although he hasn't worked for some time  
24 now. He lives with his uncle.

25 Q Could you turn to page 20 of your report, please. Is where

1 you discussed person 125?

2 A Yes.

3 Q At the time you interviewed him, how many times had person  
4 125 been committed to state hospitals in Mississippi?

5 A Three.

6 Q At the time you interviewed him, when was person 125's most  
7 recent state hospital discharge?

8 A His most recent state hospital discharge was  
9 October 14th of 2017.

10 Q Ms. Burson, what community-based services did you recommend  
11 for person 125?

12 A PACT and permanent supported housing.

13 Q Ms. Burson, please turn to the tab labeled PX-1103. What  
14 is this document?

15 A This is his most recent discharge summary from South  
16 Mississippi State Hospital.

17 Q And you are referring to person 125?

18 A Yes, I am.

19 Q This is in connection with his most recent state hospital  
20 discharge. Is that right?

21 A Yes.

22 MR. HOLKINS: Your Honor, I'd move this into evidence  
23 as PX-1103.

24 THE COURT: Any objection from the State?

25 MR. SHELSON: No, sir.

1 THE COURT: PX-1103 is received in evidence.

2 (Exhibit PX-1103 marked)

3 BY MR. HOLKINS:

4 Q Ms. Burson, on the first page of this document, please  
5 direct your attention to the section titled "History of present  
6 illness." Do you see that?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Could you read that section aloud?

9 A "The patient is a 36-year old black male. He's been off of  
10 his psychotropic medications for months, possibly a year. He  
11 has become paranoid with his family, convinced they are putting  
12 poison in his food. He has lost 20 to 30 pounds and eats only  
13 fast food from outside of the home. Further, he is convinced  
14 they put a satellite in his head, have conspired against him to  
15 get his money. He states, quote, My uncle is the ring leader,  
16 unquote. He acknowledges this has caused him worry and  
17 agitation, leading to decreased sleep, et cetera, and racing  
18 thoughts, poor concentration and hyperactivity. The patient  
19 was admitted to Singing River Hospital, where he has improved  
20 with some treatment with Risperidone. He is agreeable to  
21 further treatment."

22 Q Ms. Burson, where was person -- Ms. Burson, where was  
23 person 125 discharged after this admission?

24 A Into that same uncle's home.

25 Q Are you referring to the uncle described as the ring leader

1 in person 125's discharge summary?

2 A Yes, I am.

3 Q Why did you recommend this individual for permanent  
4 supported housing instead of placement with his uncle?

5 A So permanent supportive housing is a good intervention for  
6 somebody that has housing instability that contributes to their  
7 need for hospitalization or a person who's living situation  
8 contributes to their need for hospitalization. And in his  
9 case, because -- although he's quite actually connected with  
10 his family, his family and this uncle, but his family gets very  
11 interconnected and intertwined into his delusions, and that  
12 escalates his symptoms even further and drives hospitalization.

13 So I thought it would be better for him to mitigate that  
14 risk by having him not live with his family but still live near  
15 enough to his family that he can be connected to them.

16 Q What would permanent supported housing look like for person  
17 125 as a practical matter?

18 A So he would have his own apartment or home. Often it comes  
19 with a rental subsidy. And then he would get supports to help  
20 make sure he's maintaining that home and doing the things you  
21 need to do to be a good tenant. And, you know, it would go  
22 with PACT.

23 The other thing that would do is he would have his own food  
24 supply. When he gets more symptomatic, he wouldn't be worrying  
25 about whose food it was that was in the refrigerator and

1 whether his family was trying to poison him. And also, what  
2 permanent supportive housing can do for someone like him is  
3 provide a safe place to deescalate when his symptoms do start  
4 to ramp up.

5 Q When you interviewed him, had person 125 ever received  
6 permanent supported housing?

7 A No, he had not.

8 Q Had he ever received PACT?

9 A No, he had not.

10 Q I'd like to shift gears and talk about discharge planning.  
11 In general, how would you describe the discharge planning  
12 services the 28 individuals in your review received in  
13 Mississippi's state hospitals?

14 A In general, I found the discharge planning to be  
15 inadequate.

16 Q Why did you find it to be inadequate?

17 A So discharge planning -- a reasonable standard for  
18 discharge planning would be that the discharge plan is  
19 individualized, that it takes into account the factors that  
20 have been driving hospitalization and tries to do something to  
21 mitigate those factors.

22 Another reasonable standard would be that it is  
23 collaborative and that it is coordinated to ensure  
24 follow-through. And the other one would be that if in the past  
25 a discharge plan that you put in place didn't work, that you

1 would analyze that and figure out what didn't work about it and  
2 try something different.

3 Q So you've described what you termed a reasonable standard  
4 for discharge planning. Correct?

5 A Yes.

6 Q And how does that compare with what you saw for the 28  
7 individuals in your review?

8 A So, in general, I found the discharge planning to be  
9 formulaic. People pretty much got the same discharge plan, and  
10 it -- I didn't see discharge plans change, even when in the  
11 past the discharge plan hadn't worked. I didn't see, in  
12 general, that -- for example, so many people had a consistent  
13 pattern of going off of medications, and I didn't see services  
14 prescribed that would look at the reasons why they were going  
15 off medications and try and do something to intervene with  
16 that. So they would still prescribe medications, for example,  
17 medication services, but if somebody wasn't showing up for  
18 appointments, I didn't see anything that looked at why would  
19 that be and how could we get around that.

20 Q Could you give an example of an individual you reviewed who  
21 received inadequate discharge planning services at a state  
22 hospital in Mississippi?

23 A Yes. Person 144.

24 Q Could you introduce person 144 briefly?

25 A Yeah. He's a Caucasian male in his mid 30s. When I



1 interviewed him, he was actually in the Calhoun County Jail.  
2 He has been sick since he was quite young, like late teens,  
3 also has a comorbid substance use problem.

4 He does have a work history. He described working at a  
5 furniture factory, a local one in the area where he lives, and  
6 really described with some pride the number of different kinds  
7 of saws he was able to work. I tried to list some, but some of  
8 them I had never heard of.

9 He also described really liking music, especially playing  
10 the guitar, although he doesn't have that anymore, and he  
11 really likes to draw.

12 Q Would you please turn to page 136 of your report. Is this  
13 where you described person 144?

14 A Yes, it is.

15 Q Where did you interview person 144?

16 A In the Calhoun County Jail.

17 Q Why was person 144 in jail at the time?

18 A The sheriff told me that he was there because he was  
19 waiting for a state hospital bed.

20 Q At the time of your interview with him, when was person  
21 144's most recent state hospital discharge?

22 A In 2016, November of 2016, November 22nd.

23 Q Ms. Burson, please turn to the tab labeled PX-1107. Please  
24 turn to the second page. What is this document?

25 A This is the Mississippi State Hospital discharge summary

1 for person 144.

2 Q And is this the discharge summary in connection with person  
3 144's most recent state hospital discharge?

4 A Yes, it is.

5 MR. HOLKINS: Your Honor, I move this into evidence as  
6 PX-1107.

7 THE COURT: Any objection from the State?

8 MR. SHELSON: No, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: PX-1107 is received in evidence.

10 (Exhibit PX-1107 marked)

11 THE COURT: Did we do that for PX-1103?

12 THE CLERK: Yes.

13 THE COURT: We did? All right. Thank you. All  
14 right. You may proceed.

15 MR. HOLKINS: Thank you, Your Honor.

16 BY MR. HOLKINS:

17 Q Please turn to page 6 of this document, Ms. Burson. I want  
18 to direct your attention to the section in the middle of this  
19 page titled "After-care plans." Do you see that?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Could you please read aloud the entry for after-care plans?

22 A "Follow up with the mental health center. Follow up with  
23 the primary care provider. Keep follow-up appointments at  
24 Region 7 Mental Health Center in Eupora on 12/2/2016, at  
25 10 a.m. Next Abilify maintenance shot due on 12/14/16.

1 Continue all PO medications every day. Abstain from drugs and  
2 alcohol. Attend 90 meetings in 90 days. The family nurse  
3 practitioner instructed the patient to follow up with the  
4 primary care provider in three months, unless sooner. PRN for  
5 medication conditions and/or any other concerns. May obtain  
6 Prilosec over the counter. Monitor blood pressure and pulse  
7 two to three times per week, and record for the next primary  
8 care provider appointment."

9 Q Thank you. Let's turn back now to page 137 of your report.  
10 I want to direct you to the fourth paragraph on that page. Was  
11 this the discharge plan you described as setting person 144 up  
12 for failure?

13 A That was my -- that is my opinion, yes.

14 Q Why did you find this discharge plan set person 144 up for  
15 failure?

16 A Well, the discharge plan relied solely on him for the  
17 follow-through to execute it, so it did not factor in his  
18 extensive history of nonadherence to medications. It also  
19 didn't include engaging his parents or the community mental  
20 health center or the state hospital in some sort of a  
21 collaborative discharge planning process to look at how they  
22 might get him to attend to his medications, to get to those  
23 appointments, to get to 90 meetings in 90 days.

24 There was no plan included around outreach if he didn't  
25 show up for appointments. There were no -- nothing -- no

1 service that would include any kind of home visits to help  
2 establish any kind of the routines he would need to be  
3 established, establishing to take care of his health.

4 Q I would now like to pull up an excerpt from the deposition  
5 designations for Sheila Newbaker, who I will represent to the  
6 court is the social services executive for East Mississippi  
7 State Hospital.

8 MR. HOLKINS: Your Honor, this designation appears on  
9 page 108 of Exhibit 2 to the party's proposed pretrial order.

10 THE COURT: Okay. All right.

11 BY MR. HOLKINS:

12 Q Ms. Burson, I want to direct your attention to page 51,  
13 line 23 of this deposition designation, to the question that  
14 starts, "Do you think that East Mississippi." Do you see where  
15 I am?

16 A Yes.

17 Q I'm going to read the questions in this designation aloud.  
18 Could you read Ms. Newbaker's answers aloud?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And we'll end at page 52, line 19. Is that okay?

21 A Yes.

22 Q "Question: Do you think that East Mississippi State  
23 Hospital has a responsibility to ensure that the transition  
24 from the hospital to the community is as smooth as possible?"

25 A "Answer: Sure."

1 Q "Question: What does East Mississippi State Hospital do to  
2 achieve that purpose?"

3 A "Well, you know, we certainly make the arrangements. We  
4 make sure that the client is agreeable to the arrangements,  
5 they are aware of the arrangements and that we don't set them  
6 up for failure, that we, you know, make it as doable for them  
7 as we can."

8 Q "Question: What do you mean by set them up for failure?"

9 A "You know, place them where they won't have availability of  
10 services. We want to make sure they're able to get their  
11 medication, that they've got the appointment. We put it in  
12 their hand, look at transportation needs, try to get help with  
13 them -- try to help them with as many arrangements as possible  
14 for when they leave."

15 Q Ms. Burson, do you agree that state hospitals have a  
16 responsibility to not set their clients up for failure in the  
17 community?

18 A Yes, I do.

19 Q Returning to person 144, did you find that he was at  
20 serious risk of hospitalization at the time of the interview?

21 A I did.

22 Q Why?

23 A He was in the -- he was very symptomatic. He was in the  
24 Calhoun County Jail, and I was told by the sheriff he was  
25 waiting for a bed to become available to be admitted to the

1 state hospital.

2 Q What community-based services did you recommend for person  
3 144?

4 A I recommended PACT and permanent supportive housing.

5 Q Was there any evidence that person 144 had been receiving  
6 the intensive services he needed to mitigate his risk of  
7 hospitalization?

8 A No.

9 Q And how does that relate to the ineffective discharge  
10 planning person 144 received?

11 A Well, he was not -- PACT services were not considered. I  
12 don't think they were available in his area. I also didn't see  
13 evidence of, if they weren't available, trying to piece  
14 together and collaborate around what intensive -- what more  
15 intensive kind of service did they have the capacity to provide  
16 in order to be able to try and mitigate and break up the  
17 pattern.

18 Q Ms. Burson, after adults with serious mental illness are  
19 discharged from state hospitals, what strategies do community  
20 service providers use to keep them engaged in services?

21 A Well, one key thing that people do to keep people engaged  
22 in services is they really try to get to know that person and  
23 what's important to them and make the services that they're  
24 providing align with what is important to that person, so -- so  
25 that the services are seen as highly relevant to that person

1 being able to do what it is that they personally want to do or  
2 feel like they need to be able to do.

3 Q Is one term for that strategy assertive engagement?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Why does it matter whether adults with serious mental  
6 illness are assertively engaged in treatment?

7 A Well, it matters for two main reasons. One is, for people  
8 that don't identify as needing mental health treatment,  
9 engaging them around the things that are important to them is  
10 entree into treatment for many people. The other -- so, for  
11 example, if somebody identifies with wanting to work, engaging  
12 with them around supported employment gets somebody in the  
13 door.

14 The other reason it becomes really important is people give  
15 up on treatment when they don't see their lives getting better.  
16 So when you are supporting them and connecting it with what it  
17 is that's important to them, that they want for themselves in  
18 their lives, they feel some momentum, and then they engage and  
19 make better use of treatment. They start to apply what they're  
20 learning more in their everyday lives. So it -- it pushes  
21 treatment further along.

22 Q In general, were the individuals in your review assertively  
23 engaged in community-based treatment after their discharge from  
24 the state hospital?

25 A No.

1 Q Could you give an example of someone you reviewed for whom  
2 the lack of assertive engagement was a barrier to accessing  
3 appropriate community-based services?

4 A Person 136.

5 Q How would you describe person 136, briefly?

6 A So he's an African-American male in his mid 40s. He has  
7 six children ranging from ages six or seven to 21. He lives  
8 with his mother. He's estranged from his wife and separated.  
9 He hasn't been employed since at least 2015.

10 Q Could you turn to page 86 of your report, please. Is this  
11 where you discuss person 136?

12 A Yes, it is.

13 Q Why does person 136 need to be assertively engaged in  
14 treatment?

15 A He doesn't think he needs mental health treatment. What he  
16 identifies as needing is a job and a better place to live.

17 Q How would assertive engagement help him participate more  
18 fully in treatment?

19 A Well, he doesn't engage with treatment because he doesn't  
20 see a need for it. So if he -- for example, if you get to know  
21 him and in interacting with him pick up on his desire to have a  
22 job, and then you work with him on, well, what would help you  
23 get that job and, you know, we have supported employment, and  
24 is that something that would -- you know, that you would be  
25 interested in getting support with, sometimes people will --



1 and oftentimes you'll see people take up and say, yes, I'll do  
2 that service, as long as I don't -- I'm not required to do  
3 something else.

4 Q Ms. Burson, on page 87 of your report, in the third full  
5 paragraph, you note that person 136 was discharged from the  
6 state hospital with an after-care appointment at Weems  
7 Community Mental Health Center. Is that right?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Ms. Burson, please turn to the tab in your binder labeled  
10 PX-1106. What is this document?

11 A This is a -- from the Weems Community Mental Health Center,  
12 and it's his intake assessment at Weems.

13 Q Are you referring to person 136?

14 A I am.

15 Q What's the date of this assessment?

16 A The screening date of this is 11/16/2017.

17 MR. HOLKINS: Your Honor, I move this into evidence as  
18 PX-1106.

19 THE COURT: Any objection?

20 MR. SHELSON: No, sir.

21 THE COURT: PX-1106 is received in evidence.

22 (Exhibit PX-1106 marked)

23 BY MR. HOLKINS:

24 Q Ms. Burson, please turn to page 5 of this document. I want  
25 to direct you to the section titled "Intake summary and

1 recommendations." Do you see that?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Could you read aloud the entries in that section?

4 A "Intake summary and recommendations. Home: IRS stated he

5 lives with his payments. IRS stated he hopes to own his own

6 place when he can get on his feet financially. Individual

7 receiving services. Health: IRS stated he attends scheduled

8 doctor's appointments and takes his medicine daily as

9 prescribed by doctor. IRS stated he complies with doctor.

10 Community: IRS stated his father has an outreach store, and he

11 helps out in the store when parents need him to help. Purpose:

12 IRS stated he wants his own place."

13 Q Ms. Burson, please turn to the tab labeled PX-1105. What

14 is this document?

15 A This is the discharge service change summary for him from

16 Weems.

17 Q Are you referring to person 136?

18 A Yes, I am.

19 Q What is the date of this record?

20 A March 12th, 2018.

21 Q So that's less than four months after person 136's intake

22 assessment at Weems CMHC. Correct?

23 A Yes.

24 MR. HOLKINS: Your Honor, I move this document into

25 evidence as PX-1105.

1 THE COURT: Any objection?

2 MR. SHELSON: No, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: PX-1105 is received in evidence.

4 (Exhibit PX-1105 marked)

5 BY MR. HOLKINS:

6 Q Ms. Burson, what is listed as the reason for discharge?

7 A "No contact within specified time frame."

8 Q What is listed under discharge status?

9 A "Therapist terminated treatment."

10 Q Finally, in the text box, what discharge instructions and  
11 additional information are provided?

12 A "IRS did not come back to complete treatment plan."

13 Q How did Region 10 -- excuse me. How did Weems Community  
14 Mental Health Center fall short of assertively engaging person  
15 136 in treatment?

16 A Although they took information down about what was  
17 important to him, to get on his feet financially, a job and to  
18 get another place to live, they didn't offer any connection or  
19 engagement or service around that, or there's no evidence of  
20 that that would make him want to use Weems services, and he's a  
21 person that didn't see a need to receive mental health  
22 treatment if it wasn't going to help him with what he needed.

23 Q Did you find that person 136 was at serious risk of  
24 hospitalization when you interviewed him?

25 A Yes, I did.

1 Q Why?

2 A He was actually symptomatic at that time when I met him,  
3 and he also was not receiving -- he told me he wasn't taking  
4 his medications. He showed me, you know, the bottles of them.  
5 And he -- and he wasn't receiving any mental health services to  
6 mitigate that risk. He told me that he went to the first  
7 intake appointment, and they just wanted him to fill out  
8 paperwork, and he never came back.

9 MR. HOLKINS: Your Honor, may I confer with counsel  
10 for a moment?

11 THE COURT: Yes, you may.

12 BY MR. HOLKINS:

13 Q Ms. Burson, let's revisit person 132 one last time. Could  
14 you turn to page 81 of your report. This is where you  
15 discussed person 132. Correct?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Could you remind us, at the time of your review, how many  
18 times person 132 had been admitted to a state hospital in  
19 Mississippi?

20 A He was admitted it looks like twice at a state hospital.

21 Q Once at South Mississippi State Hospital and once at East  
22 Mississippi State Hospital. Is that correct?

23 A Correct.

24 Q When you interviewed him, how did person 132 describe the  
25 experience of being in a state hospital?

1 A He said it made him feel like he -- like he wasn't a  
2 person.

3 Q How has the experience of repeated state hospitalization  
4 affected person 132?

5 MR. SHELSON: Objection. Calls for speculation.

6 THE COURT: If she can tell from the record, you may  
7 testify if it's in the record.

8 BY MR. HOLKINS:

9 Q Ms. Burson, based on your review of person 132's records,  
10 and based on your interview with person 132, how has the  
11 experience of state hospitalization affected him?

12 A Well, he describes it as feeling less like a person. It's  
13 like going to jail over and over again, what he describes is  
14 not having -- he's not doing things that he was doing, even  
15 though he was sick. He doesn't have -- you know he -- he was  
16 trying to go to school. He went to school. He's no longer  
17 trying to pursue his education. He was working. He's no  
18 longer trying to work. He has a driver's license and was  
19 driving. He still has a driver's license, but he's no longer  
20 driving. And he talks about not feeling like he's able and  
21 capable to manage his health and his illness. So he gets  
22 hospitalized, but he's not leaving with a sense of self-agency  
23 that he can manage the world.

24 Q For someone like person 132, who is at risk of losing his  
25 self-agency, how do you go about restoring it?

1 A Well, my experience has been, and what I've seen is what it  
2 really -- what it really takes when someone is losing their  
3 sense of self-agency is you have to get in there and form a  
4 relationship with them and build some trust because it's hard  
5 to get them to take the risk again. People become afraid of  
6 failing. They start to feel like they're not capable. And so  
7 you do it with them.

8 So a service like supported employment, for example, you  
9 help the person figure out what kind of job is going to be a  
10 good fit. You help them prepare for the job. You help them do  
11 the interview. If they lose a job, you help them figure out  
12 what went wrong and what they can do different. The whole  
13 thing is a learning experience. You celebrate every success  
14 that they make, everything that they do, that they do better,  
15 is a learning experience. And so you have to engage them  
16 around the management of their life and the everyday things  
17 that they do, and that builds their confidence.

18 And the effect of that is that they start to have all  
19 self-confidence that they can begin to manage their illness,  
20 that they can -- that if -- that if they get more symptomatic  
21 or something happens, that they have a sense that it will be  
22 okay, they can do it. This is a rough patch. This is not all  
23 that I am, and this is not something that I can't overcome.

24 Q Was person 132 receiving supported employment at the time  
25 you met him?

1 A No, he was not receiving supported employment.

2 Q Had he ever received that service?

3 A No, he had never received that service.

4 Q How would you describe the experiences of meeting person  
5 132?

6 MR. SHELSON: Your Honor, how the experience affected  
7 her personally is of no relevance to this lawsuit, no  
8 disrespect intended.

9 THE COURT: Objection sustained.

10 MR. HOLKINS: I have no further questions, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: All right. We're in an hour where this is  
12 a good place to break until tomorrow. We'll see you tomorrow,  
13 Ms. Burson. Spend as much money as you can here in Jackson.  
14 She is staying in Jackson, right?

15 Did you want to cross-examine her this afternoon?

16 MR. SHELSON: Oh, no, sir. Mr. Anderson asked me  
17 to -- you mentioned yesterday we may be starting a little later  
18 tomorrow, and he asked me to ask you.

19 THE COURT: We will. We will be starting later  
20 tomorrow.

21 MR. SHELSON: Yes, sir.

22 THE COURT: You can sleep in a little bit. With  
23 respect to tomorrow, we'll start at 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.  
24 I have a matter that starts at 9. We should be through long  
25 before 10, but just be prepared to start up at 10.

1 But we realized we have another matter scheduled  
2 tomorrow afternoon. Do we know what witnesses will be called  
3 tomorrow?

4 MS. RUSH: Your Honor, we have, in addition to Ms.  
5 Burson, we have another fact witness tomorrow who we expect her  
6 direct to last about an hour and a half. I should also inform  
7 the court our next -- our witness after that is an expert who  
8 is having some travel difficulties and is stuck in the Atlanta  
9 airport, so he may be coming in late tonight. So we can either  
10 hold him over for Friday morning or take him at some point late  
11 in the afternoon, if that's possible.

12 THE COURT: I tell you what. Let's start at 9:45  
13 tomorrow morning, and we'll end at 3:15. I have another matter  
14 that starts at 3:30, and rather than start that 3:30 matter and  
15 then try to come back -- I think I'll be through with the 3:30  
16 matter at like -- well, let's just play it by ear. I have  
17 another hearing for 3:30, so I'm thinking if we do finish up  
18 with this witness and get to the fact witness, and we'll see  
19 how it goes in trying to get in your expert. We may just hold  
20 your expert until Friday.

21 MS. RUSH: That sounds good, Your Honor. Thank you.

22 THE COURT: And maybe we'll be able to leave early --  
23 maybe you all will be able to leave early Thursday, tomorrow,  
24 maybe about 3:00 or any time before then. I do have another  
25 matter at 3:30 that I need to take care of. I don't think it



1 will take very long, but I don't want to chop up what you might  
2 be doing tomorrow.

3 MS. RUSH: Okay.

4 THE COURT: All right.

5 MS. RUSH: That sounds good. Thank you, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Okay. Does that sound all right to the  
7 State, Mr. Shelson?

8 MR. HOLKINS: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you.

9 THE COURT: All right. All right. We'll start up at  
10 9:45 tomorrow and then proceed -- proceed with the  
11 understanding that I do have that -- a 3:30 hearing in another  
12 matter. All right. Ms. Rush?

13 MS. RUSH: Apologize, Your Honor, but because of your  
14 morning hearing, should we clear counsel table for other  
15 parties?

16 THE COURT: You don't have to. I mean, you know, you  
17 can -- anything that you wouldn't want them to see is fine, but  
18 you don't have to move the computers or move the name tags or  
19 any of that type of stuff.

20 MS. RUSH: Thank you, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: All right. Is there anything we need to  
22 take care of besides getting Ms. Burson down off the stand?  
23 You can step down. Is there anything else we need to take care  
24 of?

25 MS. RUSH: Not from the United States, Your Honor.

1 Thank you.

2 THE COURT: Thank you also much, and I'll see you all  
3 tomorrow morning.

4 (Recess)  
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## 1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2  
3 I, CHERIE GALLASPY BOND, Official Court Reporter, United  
4 States District Court, Southern District of Mississippi, do  
5 hereby certify that the above and foregoing pages contain a  
6 full, true and correct transcript of the proceedings had in the  
7 aforementioned case at the time and place indicated, which  
8 proceedings were recorded by me to the best of my skill and  
9 ability.

10 I certify that the transcript fees and format comply  
11 with those prescribed by the Court and Judicial Conference of  
12 the United States.

13  
14 This the 12th day of June, 2019.

15  
16 s/ *Cherie G. Bond*  
17 Cherie G. Bond  
18 Court Reporter  
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